

REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of March 31, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 23 and 25 have been amended. Claim 3 and 12-13 are cancelled. Claims 1-2, 4-11 and 14-56 are now pending after entry of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-2, 4-11 and 14-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,278,237 (Campos) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,069,443 (Jones). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 1 recites a device with a substrate having active and non-active regions, where the non-active regions are between the active regions. An active component is in at least one of the active regions. A cap support is in a periphery of the device and in the non-active region. A cap is on the cap support, forming a cavity between the active component and the cap. The substrate, cap support and cap together form a flexible device.

Campos shows an organic electroluminescent display device with organic material layers 300 between conductors 200, 210 (FIG. 5, col. 6, lines 3-46). Nonconducting pillars 400 are positioned on top of the conductors 200 and 210, such that a vertical channel 500 is formed between the pillars 400 (*id.*). The pillars 400 serve to partition the matrix and protect the conductors (*id.*). A filler layer 600 is between the pillars 400, and together the pillars 400 and filler layer 600 prevent permeation of moisture into the vertical channels 500 (*id.*). A metal layer 700 and an encapsulation layer 800 are additionally formed in the interpillar space 500 (col. 7, lines 39-65). The metal layer 700 provides a barrier to moisture penetration (*id.*). The filler layer 600, metal layer 700 and encapsulation layer 800 protect the organic layer 300 (*id.*).

Jones discloses a sealing plate 30 that prevents exposure of the reactive materials that form an OLED 1 (col. 9, lines 18-25).

The Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form a cap on the on the cap support in order to prevent exposure to moisture and oxygen. The applicant disagrees. Campos teaches that the filler layer 600 and metal layer 700 provide a barrier to moisture penetration and organic layer 300 is "well protected . . . beneath a filler layer 600, a mirror (metal layer) 700 and the encapsulation layer 800." Because there is a barrier to moisture penetration provided by the metal layer 700 and the filler layer 600, and the organic layer is protected by the encapsulation layer 800, one of ordinary skill would not be motivated to add a barrier, such as a sealing plate, to the device described by Campos. Campos already addresses providing a barrier and therefore one would not be motivated to add an additional barrier. Moreover, there is no suggestion in Campos that the pillars should be used to support a cap.

Further, the applicant's claim requires that the substrate, cap support and cap together form a flexible device. Neither Campos nor Jones describe a device that is flexible. For at least these reasons, the applicant submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been made with respect to amended claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the combination of Campos and Jones. Claims 2, 4-11 and 14-29 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are similarly allowable.

No fee is believed to be due. If, however, there are any charges or credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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